

LIBRARY
URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY

INTERIM

Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1941.



BILSTON & SEDGLEY:
JOHN PRICE & SONS, PRINTERS.

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY

INTERIM
Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1941.



BILSTON & SEDGLEY :
JOHN PRICE & SONS, PRINTERS.

Chairman of Health Committee.

Councillor C. A. PRATT, J.P., C.C.

Medical Officer of Health.

F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(serving with His Majesty's Forces).

C. H. G. BEKENN, M.B., Ch.B. (temporary appointment,
3/10/39).

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON, M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C.,
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector

Medical Officer's Clerk and Cleansing Superintendent.

W. A. PEARSON.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors.

S. CAINE (serving with His Majesty's Forces).

R. BOWYER.

I. HOUGH.

Public Health Clerk.

Miss B. MULLETT.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1941.

Area, 3,854 acres.

Population, 21,350 (Mid. 1941); 19,262 (Census, 1931).

Number of Inhabited houses: 1931, 4,168; 1941, 5,736.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £319.

Rateable Value, £82,672.

General Rate, 15/6 in the £.

Birth Rate, 13.77.

Death Rate, 11.33.

Infantile Death Rate, per 1,000 Births: 60.0.

Total Deaths from Diarrhoea, 1; Rate per 1,000 Births, 3.3.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 16; From other Tuberculous Diseases, 6.

Tuberculosis Death Rate: Pulmonary, 0.75; Non-Pulmonary, 0.28.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban
District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, indicated in Circular 2604, this Annual Report for the year 1941 is abridged and interim in character and, as a result, much information and many statistics are omitted.

It is again possible to say that, notwithstanding the many difficulties which exist, the general health conditions have been fully maintained.

Perhaps the most unhealthy sign is the fact that the Birth Rate continues to fall and was only 13.77 as against 14.2 for England and Wales.

The Death Rate of 11.33 is much the same as last year, when it was 11.22.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 60.0 is exactly double that for 1940, but is practically the same as the figure for England and Wales, which is 59.0.

The various Health Services are maintaining a high standard of efficiency, and the report of Dr. Carruthers, County Medical Officer of Health, shows that the work of the Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres is not suffering as a result of war conditions.

The creation of the West Midlands Joint Hospital Board and the adaptation of the Moxley Small-pox Hospital for isolation of infectious cases in the area should do much to relieve the difficulties

of past years in providing hospital treatment for local infectious patients. While it has been impossible to proceed with the erection of a new, up-to-date hospital, the arrangements now being made will result in a marked advance on the old conditions.

Immunisation of the child population has been highly successful during the past year and I desire to express my appreciation of the splendid work done in this direction by Dr. C. Simpson Smith, also for the useful compilation of records relative to this work which he has provided to my office.

The private practitioners continue to co-operate in every possible way and I appreciate their helpfulness.

I also desire to acknowledge the help and support given to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committees, the loyal services rendered by the members of the staff and the willing assistance given me by my brother officers of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. G. BEKENN,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1942.

SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS.

For
I.M., etc.

For
B. Rate.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	165	135	163	131
Legitimate	161	129	159	125
Illegitimate	4	6	4	6

Birth Rate—13.77.

STILL BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	5	6	5	6
Legitimate	5	6	5	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 Total Births—36.06.

	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	242	125	117	Rate—11.33

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth:—
From Sepsis, 0. Other puerperal causes, 1.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births, 60.0.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 55.17.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 200.0.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 28.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), 1.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age), 1.

TABLE I.
BIRTH RATES.

Year.	SEDGLEY.		England and Wales, Birth Rate.
	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.	
1936	288	14.4	14.8
1937	292	14.4	14.9
1938	321	15.8	15.1
1939	304	14.69	15.0
1940	299	14.21	14.6
1941	294	13.77	14.2

TABLE II.
DEATH RATES.

Year.	SEDGLEY.		England and Wales, Death Rate.
	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	
1936	220	11.0	12.1
1937	222	11.0	12.4
1938	221	10.9	11.6
1939	251	12.07	12.1
1940	236	11.22	14.3
1941	242	11.33	12.9

TABLE III.

SEDGLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1941.

Causes of Death:—

		M.	F.
	All Causes	125	117
1	Typhoid Fever, etc.	1	—
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	1	—
5	Diphtheria	—	1
6	Respiratory Tuberculosis	9	7
7	Other Tuberculosis	—	6
8	Syphilitic Diseases	1	—
9	Influenza	2	3
10	Measles	—	—
11	Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—
12	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males)		
	Uterus (F.)	—	3
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	4
15	Cancer of Breast	—	3
16	Cancer of all other sites	7	8
17	Diabetes	—	2
18	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	11	12
19	Heart Disease	24	24
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	2
21	Bronchitis	19	10
22	Pneumonia	7	8
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	3
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	—
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—
26	Appendicitis	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	2	2
28	Nephritis	2	2
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30	Other Maternal causes	—	1
31	Premature Birth	4	1
32	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, etc.....	6	—
33	Suicide	4	—
34	Road Traffic Accidents	1	1
35	Other violent causes	6	1
36	All other causes	8	13

TABLE III.—(Continued).

					M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under one year:	Total	....	....	....	14	4
	Legitimate	....	....	....	13	3
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	1
Live Births:	Total	....	....	....	163	131
	Legitimate	....	....	....	159	125
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	4	6
Stillbirths:	Total	....	....	....	5	6
	Legitimate	....	....	....	5	6
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—
Resident population	....	....	....	....	21,350	

The highest number of deaths were attributable to the following causes:—

						1941	1940
Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	....	48	45
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	....	....	....	....	....	23	26
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	15	13
Cancer	....	....	....	....	....	28	29
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	29	29
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	16	12
Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	5	5

TABLE V.
INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1941.

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age:—

Causes of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—6 Months. 4 Weeks.	Total under one month	1—3 Months.	3—6 Months. 4 Weeks.	6—9 Months.	9—12 Months.	Total Deaths under one Year
All causes	5	3	1	...	9	3	3	1	2	18
Smallpox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Whooping Cough	1	...	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...	1	2
Tuberculous Peritonitis
Other Tuberculous Disease
Meningitis (not tubercular)
Convulsions
Laryngitis	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)
Diarrhœa
Enteritis	1	...	1
Gastritis
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation
Injury at Birth
Atelectasis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformation	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth	4	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus
Influenza
Icterus Neonatorum	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Other causes	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
Totals	5	3	1	...	9	3	3	1	2	18

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Sources of supply are as detailed in the report for the year 1939. The results of examination of samples supplied to me by Mr. Fred. J. Dixon, M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst. Mech.E., Engineer-in-Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, show that the supply maintains a satisfactory standard.

Drainage and Sewerage.—This report is submitted by Mr. A. E. Dicks, Assoc. Mem. Inst.C.E., Surveyor.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year no new sewers were actually laid by the Council, but Claremont Road was adopted, and this embraced a length of 63 yds. of foul sewer and 61 yds. of surface water drain.

Sewage Disposal Works.

The analyses of effluents from all Works are still taken regularly, but these are not quite as good as originally, partly due to the age of the Works and partly due to the extension of Housing Schemes.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

No new houses were erected during the year. Four existing houses which were under demolition orders have been rendered void and the tenants re-housed. Vacancies in Council houses are so rare that progress in dealing with transfer of occupiers of unfit and overcrowded houses is almost at a standstill.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year four houses were disinfested, but none of them were badly infected.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—Particulars of inspections and details of work done will be found in your Inspector's Report.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**—Inspections have been carried out in the slaughter-houses, together with visits to retail shops. For further information see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) **Adulteration, etc.**—The County Authority is responsible for all inspections and actions taken.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foods.**—The County is the responsible Authority.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Jenkins, Inspector of South Staffordshire for the following report.

PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN SEDGLEY U.D. DURING 1941.

Article.	Samples taken.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Milk	54	44	10
General Foods	10	10	—
Total	64	54	10

Ten samples of milk were reported against as follows: one retailer cautioned for two samples which were, 1.1% added water and 7% deficient in fat respectively; another retailer was cautioned for a sample which was 2.6% deficient in fat.

Three samples from another retailer were found to contain 1.9% added water, 2.5% added water, and 2.5% added water respectively, and a further four samples were taken from the farmer who was supplying the milk. These were found to contain 2.5% added water, 4.3% added water, 11.9% added water, and a trace of added water, respectively, and proceedings were instituted against the farmer, who was fined £7 and £2 6s. 0d. costs.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

UNDESIGNATED SAMPLES.

Number submitted	Cleanliness		T.B.	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Negative	Positive
40+3	22	18	35	2

DESIGNATED MILKS.

		No. of samples submitted.		Cleanliness.		T.B.	
				Satis.	Unsatis.	Neg.	Pos.
Tuberculin Tested	4+3	....	4	—	....	1	—
Accredited	5+2	....	5	—	....	3	—
Pasteurised	1	....	1	—	....	1	....

+ No Biological Test.

All the Pasteurised samples passed the phosphatase test for pasteurisation.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a very considerable increase in the number of notified cases of infectious disease. Of the 352 cases notified, 206 were due to Measles, while the Scarlet Fever cases increased from 39 in the previous year to 48 this year. There was also an increase in Diphtheria cases, from 13 in 1940 to 31 for this year. Of these 31 cases, 21 were notified from Burton House Institution, so that the actual number of cases in Sedgley Urban area was only ten.

Of these ten cases, two were admitted to hospital, the total cost of their treatment being £28 3s. 0d. In addition, ten of the Burton House cases were removed to Isolation Hospitals, the cost of these being borne by the County Public Assistance Committee.

Of the Scarlet Fever cases, three were treated in hospital at a total cost of £41 19s. 0d.

Ready use is made of Diphtheria anti-toxin by the local medical practitioners, supplies always being available on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

Measles accounted for 58% of the total notifications. Most of these cases occurred during the first quarter of the year. During the previous year only one case was notified.

As regards non-notifiable diseases, Chicken-pox was prevalent in the second quarter of the year, 112 cases being reported from the Schools. During this period, 31 cases of German Measles were also reported.

There was again no notified case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

Tuberculosis.

			Respiratory.	Non- Respiratory.
New Cases:	Males	....	16	2
	Females	....	9	5
Deaths:	Males	....	9	—
	Females	....	7	6

During the year 92 throat swab tests were carried out at the County Laboratory, 11 being positive and 81 negative.

Thirty-six sputum tests were also made and of these 13 were found to be positive and 23 negative.

Eleven faeces tests were also carried out.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

I am indebted to Dr. C. Simpson Smith, County Assistant School Medical Officer, for his report that during the year he has given this treatment to 339 children under five years and 394 children between the ages of five and eight years.

The total number of immunisations during the year was 368 under five years and 424 between the ages of five and fifteen years.

The Prophylactic used was as follows:—

	Under 5 years.	Over 5 years.
" T.A.F."	146	399
" A.P.T."	222	25

The estimated percentage of child population in the district who have now received a complete course of immunisation is, for children under five years, 27.9, and for children between five and fifteen years, 50.1.

These figures are very encouraging, and as the response of parents to the various appeals made to them is undoubtedly increasing, I am hopeful we shall, in the near future, reach a much higher percentage of children safeguarded from Diphtheria, with all its ill-effects and often loss of life.

TABLE VII.

AGE-GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN 1941.

DISEASE.	At all Ages.	AT THE AGES SPECIFIED.																						
		0—1		1—2		2—3		3—4		4—5		5—10		10—15		15—25		25—45		45—65		65 and over.		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Scarlet Fever	20	28	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	3	—	9	12	4	4	3	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria	13	18	—	1	2	5	1	—	1	—	4	1	2	2	2	6	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	10	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	4	3	4	2	1	1	
Typhoid	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	3	1	4	2	1	
Whooping Cough	15	14	1	2	2	3	1	1	4	5	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles	108	98	3	2	11	9	6	6	8	11	63	52	1	5	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Totals	172	180	4	4	14	12	20	18	8	9	16	11	82	72	8	12	5	20	6	14	6	6	3	2

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

HOUSING.

Owing to the war, practically no progress was made with regard to Slum Clearance. No demolition orders were made during the year, although many houses are quickly dropping to a standard that can hardly be called "fit for human habitation."

The letting of all Council houses is done from this department and every endeavour is made to allocate existing houses, as they become empty, to those most needing them from the housing standpoint. During 1941, however, only seven houses became void. Four of these were allocated to families living in houses already under demolition order, and the other three to families to whom a house was necessary for health or other reasons.

At the beginning of the year there were 18 families still living in condemned houses, and so by the end of the year this figure was reduced to 14.

There were 58 void houses under demolition order still standing at the beginning of the year, although some of these had been licensed temporarily to accommodate evacuated families. Sixteen of these empty houses were demolished during the year. Thus there are 46 houses still to be demolished, including the four additional houses which became void. Fifteen of these houses have been licensed temporarily.

No notices for repairs under the Housing Act were served during the year. It was felt that it was hopeless to expect the work to be done. Even urgent repairs, which were dealt with under the Public Health Act, occasioned the department much trouble. While the difficulty of obtaining builders and material was fully appreciated, there is no doubt that many owners took advantage of the situation to evade their responsibilities. The work which will be necessary in this respect when the war is over will be colossal.

With regard to overcrowding, it was found impossible to take any steps to ameliorate conditions during the year. The number of cases of overcrowding of which we have definite particulars rose from 133 to 139. But these figures do not show a true picture of the position. We know of so many cases where lodgers have been taken in almost to the permitted number, that there must be as many more where the figure has been exceeded. Much of the overcrowding is, of course, due to war conditions, and, we hope, will be of a temporary nature.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Only one private slaughterhouse was in use during the year. This is a small bacon factory, and all pigs were inspected immediately after slaughter.

A number of cottagers' pigs were also inspected throughout the district.

The total number of pigs inspected during the year was 1,657. The weight of meat condemned was 1 ton 9 cwts. 2 qrs. 10 lbs. This condemned meat is detailed in the following tables.

Affected with Tuberculosis.

Pigs' heads	....	....	....	....	133
„ plucks	....	....	....	....	48
„ mesenteries	....	....	....	....	34
„ carcasses (complete)	....	....	....	....	2
„ kidneys	....	....	....	....	2
„ collars	....	....	....	....	1

Affected with other Diseases.

Pyæmia	....	....	....	1 carcase complete
Emaciation	....	....	....	1 „ „
Pneumonia	....	....	....	4 plucks
Cirrhosis	....	....	....	1 liver
Abscesses	....	....	....	2 heads
Cystic	....	....	....	1 kidney

Portions of organs affected with various conditions are not included in the above figures.

In addition to the inspection of pigs, foodstuffs of all kinds were regularly examined in shops and large quantities were certified unfit for human consumption. The number of eggs which were received by the shopkeepers broken or rotten was really deplorable. Most of the tinned foods which were condemned were damaged through careless and very rough handling in transit.

INSPECTIONS.

During the year inspections to premises of various kinds numbered 3,343. In addition, 587 re-inspections were made.

The types of property visited are listed in the table below.

Ashbins	....	....	....	....	209
Ashpits	....	....	....	....	55
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	23
Cesspools	....	....	....	....	20
Cottagers' Pigs	....	....	....	....	202

INSPECTIONS—(continued).

Drainage	....	....	....	26
Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	....	127
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	21
Food Premises	....	....	....	30
Factories—Power	....	....	....	3
Factories—No Power	....	....	....	3
General Nuisances	....	....	....	48
Houses under P.H.A.	....	....	....	132
Housing Act	....	....	....	6
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	80
Interviews	....	....	....	57
Letting of Council Houses	....	....	....	201
Licensed Premises	....	....	....	13
Meat Shops	....	....	....	39
Overcrowding	....	....	....	5
Privies	....	....	....	5
Public Cleansing	....	....	....	696
Piggeries	....	....	....	4
Re-inspections	....	....	....	587
Rats and Mice Destruction	....	....	....	10
Railings	....	....	....	759
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	117
Shops Act	....	....	....	3
Salvage	....	....	....	239
Tents, Vans, Sheds	....	....	....	1
War Emergencies—A.R.P.	....	....	....	209

NOTICES.

The number of informal notices served during the year was 281. Of this number and those outstanding from the previous year, 257 were complied with at the end of the year.

Fourteen statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1936. All were complied with during the year.

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out in the district as a result of the above notices.

Ashbins provided	....	....	....	125
Ashpits demolished	....	....	....	6
Accumulations removed	....	....	....	7
Burst Pipes repaired	....	....	....	13
Bathrooms provided	....	....	....	2
Ceilings repaired or renewed	....	....	....	6
Cowsheds limewashed	....	....	....	12
Drainage provided	....	....	....	3

NOTICES—(continued).

Drainage altered	....	....	....	....	3
Drainage cleared	....	....	....	....	12
Dirty Premises cleaned	....	....	....	....	4
Doors renewed	....	....	....	....	5
Doors repaired	....	....	....	....	6
Dampness remedied	....	....	....	....	8
Floors repaired	....	....	....	....	12
Firegrates repaired	....	....	....	....	9
Hot Water provided	....	....	....	....	3
Houses cleansed	....	....	....	....	4
House Roofs repaired	....	....	....	....	42
Houses demolished	....	....	....	....	3
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	25
Outbuildings limewashed	....	....	....	....	9
Plasterwork repaired	....	....	....	....	13
Privies converted to W.C.'s	....	....	....	....	11
Privies converted to Chemical Closets	....	....	....	....	1
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	....	....	....	....	2
Sink Waste Pipes repaired	....	....	....	....	7
Spouting repaired	....	....	....	....	22
Sinks provided	....	....	....	....	4
Stair Treads repaired	....	....	....	....	2
Walls pointed	....	....	....	....	7
Washing Boilers repaired	....	....	....	....	3
Water Supply provided	....	....	....	....	1
Washing facilities provided in shops	....	....	....	....	2
W.C.'s cleansed	....	....	....	....	8
W.C.'s repaired	....	....	....	....	13
W.C. new pans provided	....	....	....	....	5
W.C. cisterns repaired	....	....	....	....	15
Windows repaired	....	....	....	....	20
Windows provided	....	....	....	....	4
W.C.'s provided	....	....	....	....	7
Yards cleansed	....	....	....	....	3
Yard Paving relaid	....	....	....	....	1

SALVAGE.

Salvage continued throughout the year to be the most important single item in the work of the department. Different systems of collection and storage were tried in order to find the one most suitable for the district, and that which appeared to give most satisfaction to all concerned was the collection of salvage at the same time as the household refuse.

Labour troubles have not been acute in the department, due, I believe, to the reasonably good conditions under which the men work, although the absence of munition works in the district may have had a bearing on the question.

With regard to transport we were not so fortunate. The entire work of the Department throughout the year fell on two S.D. freighters, together with a horse and cart. The Council realised the impossibility of carrying on a really effective service with such limited transport, and the purchase of a third vehicle was put in hand early in the year. Unfortunately, the exigencies of war resulted in the year finishing before the delivery of the new vehicle.

An attempt to get the public to keep all salvage separate for collection was a failure. Efforts to this end were made continuously, and while many residents co-operated whole-heartedly, the number who did not necessitated sorting at the tip. This sorting of all refuse has been continued ever since, and four men have been employed exclusively on this work.

At our salvage depot we have been under the double handicap of lack of room and no means of preventing trespass. The yard itself is open to the public and considerable damage and theft has occurred throughout the year. The chief annoyance, however, has been the scattering about of materials after they have been sorted by the men.

The same trouble from trespassers was experienced at the refuse tip, where tins and broken glass are stored after sorting from the refuse.

The weights of materials salvaged during the twelve months are as follows, with last year's figure in brackets:—

Kitchen Waste	....	....	116 tons	(8)
Paper	....	....	106 „	(90)
Tins	....	....	65 „	(39)
Cullet	....	....	29 „	(12)
Metal	....	....	10 „	(17)
Jars	....	....	10 „	{ (10)
Bottles	....	....	8 „	
Bones	....	....	5 „	(5)
Rags	....	....	5 „	(2)
			<hr/> 354 tons	<hr/> (183) <hr/>

The prices received for the above materials were:—

Paper	....	....	....	£432	(£352)
Kitchen Waste	....	....	....	158	(35)
Tins	....	....	....	64	(35)
Bottles	....	....	....	32	{ (32)
Jars	....	....	....	28	
Metal	....	....	....	30	(34)
Cullet	....	....	....	25	(11)
Rags	....	....	....	20	(9)
Bones	....	....	....	18	(15)
				<hr/> £807	<hr/> (£527) <hr/>

It will be observed that the tonnage of all materials except metals and rags was higher than in the previous year. Paper is still below the figure expected by the Ministry, but I am convinced that the paper is simply not in this district. I have found that paper comes mostly from four classes of premises: shops, factories, offices and well-to-do-houses. This district is lacking in all four.

The most **successful** of all the branches of salvage has been kitchen waste. Over 200 bins have been placed throughout the district, and the public are responding well. Over 20 tons were collected in the month of November, which is up to the figure quoted by the Ministry for a district of this size.

DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

